

Child Fatality Review #08-17
Region 2
Klickitat County

This 14-month-old Caucasian female's died from compressional asphyxiation.

Case Overview

On June 11, 2008, the Klickitat County Coroner reported to Child Protective Services (CPS) intake the accidental death of child of this 14-month-old child. The child's mother reported she put the infant on her back in her crib to sleep. This infant shared a room with her three-year-old sister. The mother later went to check on the deceased child and found the three-year-old in the crib with several blankets covering the infant. The infant was blue and non-responsive. The mother called 911; medics responded but were unable to resuscitate the infant. The county coroner concluded this fatality appeared to be an accidental death. Law enforcement investigated and determined no crime or abuse or neglect was committed.

Referral History

On October 17, 2007, the deceased child's mother reported to CPS intake that her then two-year-old daughter (half-sibling to the deceased child) reported that her biological father touched her genitals. This sibling has regular, but limited contact with her father. The mother asked the father about their daughter's comment and he said he helped her use the toilet but never touched her private area. He later admitted to being sexually intimate with his girlfriend in front of his daughter. The mother is the primary caretaker of this child. This referral was screened as a low risk CPS referral.

On June 11, 2008, the Klickitat County Coroner reported to CPS intake the accidental death of this 14-month-old child. The coroner determined the manner of death was accidental. All indications are that the older child crawled into the deceased child's crib covering her with blankets and possibly sitting on her head, suffocating her. The immediate cause of death was listed as probable compression asphyxia. This referral was screened as information only.

Issues and Recommendations

Issue: None

Recommendation: None